

James City County

Newport News

Poquoson

Williamsburg

York County



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Department of Public Health
Peninsula Health District*

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WIC Department

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Newport News, Virginia 23607
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WIC Department

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- 1126 Professional Drive
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185
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PRESS RELEASE

Date: October 19, 2011

Subject: Raccoon Tests Positive for the Rabies Virus

Contact: Dave Jordan, Environmental Health Manager
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Peninsula Health District: 757.594.7305

The Peninsula Health District would like to notify the residents in the communities surrounding Rawls Byrd Elementary School in James City County, that a raccoon has tested positive for the rabies virus.

Anyone having information regarding any exposure to this animal or other wild animals (bite, scratch or contact with saliva by open wound or eyes, nose, mouth) is asked to contact your local health department at the Williamsburg Area Environmental Health Office at 757.253.4813. Exposures also include direct contact between your pet and the rabid animal. After hours, please contact local Animal Control at 253-1800.

Rabies is a fatal, but preventable, disease that is carried by mammals and has been in the wild animal population on the Peninsula since the mid 1980's. Our local office of Environmental Health Services will be contacting the immediate neighbors as well as any civic or homeowner's association that serves the community.

The District would like to remind all citizens to follow these three important rabies prevention guidelines:

1. Vaccinate your pets.
2. Report all exposures to animals (usually bites and scratches) to your doctor and the local health department.
3. Enjoy wildlife from a distance – don't feed or encourage wild animals such as raccoons, skunks or foxes to visit your premises.